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Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

Volume 9
Number 1

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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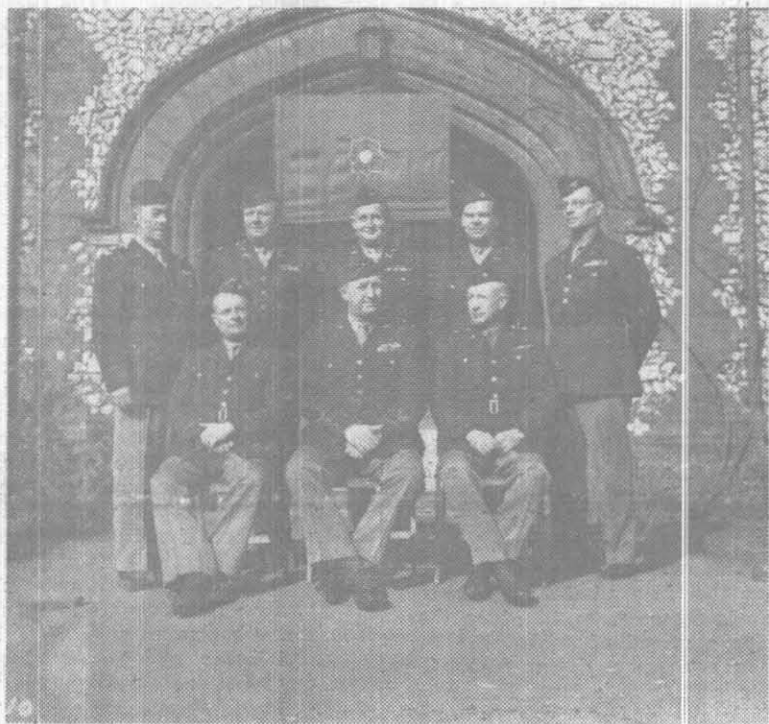
Jersey City (3), N. J., P.O. Box 428

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JANUARY, 1954

Major Gen. Donald A. Stroh, Former Assistant Division Commander Dies

Lt. General M. S. Eddy's Farewell To Major General Stroh



On the 20th of December, 1953 Donald A. Stroh, a great leader and soldier, was removed from the inevitable and gradually decreasing numbers of our comrades who still live. No member of the old Ninth Infantry Division was more respected and loved by his comrades and fellow men than was Donald Stroh. His qualities of graciousness, loveliness, straight forwardness, and honesty to those who knew him will always be remembered.

To the soldiers of the old division, and especially to the infantrymen, he was a symbol of "what to do in combat and how to do it." As Assistant Division Commander it was his responsibility to prepare the infantry soldier of the division psychologically, physically, and technically for his job in combat. The great accomplishments of the infantry soldier of the Ninth Division during campaigns in Africa, Sicily and across France through Belgium into Germany is ample evidence of the merits of the training program he laid down for them to follow. His foresight, his wealth of knowledge of military history, and his great skill as a teacher in guiding the infantry through the infrequent training periods between campaigns was more responsible for many of those infantrymen surviving the war than some of us realize.

In July of 1944 during the Normandy campaign, he received the promotion he so richly deserved and the one that he coveted most. He was given the command of a division, the ultimate goal of all combat soldiers. The brilliant performance of that division, the Eighth Infantry Division, during its operations on the Brittany Peninsula, was a demonstration of his high qualities of leadership.

When he left us in Normandy, during those trying days of July, 1944, his loss was keenly felt by us all, but by none more than to the man to whom he was "Assistant." His loss today is even more keenly felt by not only his comrades of the Ninth Division, but by his many friends and contemporaries. I, personally, feel I have lost a real confidant and a close friend.

MANTON S. EDDY
Lieutenant General, USA (Ret)

A Few Words Of Thanks

The following letter was received from R. H. Stumpf, formerly of the 39th Infantry Regiment which is self explanatory.

The addressee of this letter was the secretary, but the thoughts as expressed in this note is for the membership at large. . .

Dear sir: "May I express the appreciation of Mrs. Donald A. Stroh and other members of the family for the beautiful floral spray sent in tribute to the late General Stroh by the National Headquarters of the Ninth Infantry Division Association.

General Stroh was proud of his service with the Division and was interested in the activities of the Association until his death.

Sincerely yours,
R. H. Stumpf,
formerly 39th Reg."

Chapter News

Washington, D. C. Chapter

The first meeting for 1954 will be the "KickOff" meeting and is scheduled for Monday evening, February 8th, 1954 at the Green Room of the Officers Club on the North Post in Fort Meyer, Virginia.

Boston Chapter

Fred B. D'Amore sends the report that Boston is holding their meeting in the very near future, and a report will be forthcoming on some very important discussions. So, all you Boston men watch your mail for news of the next Boston meeting.

New York Chapter

The members of the New York Chapter held their January meeting at Gerdes Restaurant on 17th Street, between 4th Ave. and 3rd Ave. in New York City to welcome in the new officers for the 1954 term. This year the convention will be held in New York and the installation of new officers was an important function to the New York gang and was attended by 65 members. The following slate is scheduled to head the New York Chapter for 1954. Charles Fabre (60th Field Artillery) President, 2nd Vice President Vincent Iannucci (47), 1st Vice President, Vincent Guglielmino, (47th), and Secretary-treasurer, Dominick Miele, (47th Inf.). The Board of Governors will consist of the following men: Danny Quinn, (47), Milton Wind, (60th Inf.), Rogers, (39th), George Whitney (Special Troops), and Charles Fabre (Artillery).

One of the highlights of the meeting was the reading of a letter received from Mrs. Mae Spencer congratulating Mike Gatto on

(Continued on page 2)

Maj. Gen. Stroh died Sunday, Dec. 20, 1953 and was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery



On December 20, 1953 in the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C., Major General Donald A. Stroh died of a cerebral hemorrhage, he had been in poor health for some time. General Stroh was 61 years of age and had retired from the Army in 1949 after 32 years of active service. Services were held in the Fort Myer chapel and the following 9th Division Association men attended the services. Brig. Gen. Westmoreland, Col., Van Bond, Col. Elvan Sundin, Mr. and Mrs. William Peverill, Charles O. Tingley, Anthony Micke, Noah Brisson, and Lt. Col. Stumpf (Gen. Stroh's son-in-law.) General Collins was one of the honorary pallbearers.

General Stroh was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and moved to Washington in 1897. He attended the Central High School and was graduated from the Michigan Agricultural College, now Michigan State College, in 1915. The College awarded Gen. Stroh an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws in 1950.

Served in Hawaii

In 1917 Gen. Stroh was commissioned a second lieutenant in the regular army. After attending the Army Service School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, he was assigned to the 17th Cavalry Regiment at Douglas, Arizona. He

Transferred to Infantry

General Stroh transferred to the Infantry in 1920, and in 1922 attended the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He took the Advanced Infantry course there in 1929, and attended the Command and General Staff School in 1933. General Stroh was assigned to the Army War College in 1936, and to Fort Benning the next year as instructor at the Infantry School. In 1942 he was promoted to brigadier general and assigned to the Ninth Infantry Division as assistant commander. He served with the Ninth Infantry Division in the North African Sicilian and Normandy campaigns.

Takes over 8th Inf. Division

After a brilliant career with the Ninth Infantry Division and a promotion to Major General, he took over the command of the Eighth Infantry Division in 1944. He led this Division through action

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THE OCTOFOIL

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Published each month by and for the members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. News articles, feature stories, photographs or art material from members will be welcomed and every effort will be made to return photographs and art work in good condition. Please address all communications to the "Octofoil" 9th Inf. Div. Assoc., P. O. Box 428, Jersey City 3, N. J.

Extract from the certificate of incorporation of the Ninth Infantry Division Association: This Association is formed by the officers and men of the Ninth Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the division, to assist in promoting an ever lasting world peace exclusively by means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau to members and former members of the Division.

Copy and pictures must be received on or before the 5th of each month to guarantee publication.

Advertising Rates will be furnished upon request. Write to Stanley Cohen, Ninth Inf. Div. Assoc., P. O. Box 428, Jersey City N.J.
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Volume 9

January, 1954

Number 1

AN OPEN ANSWER

The volume of mail that has resulted from this past dues notice has been to date very gratifying. But, as in each drive there are some who are not in complete accord with the way certain tasks are handled.

Criticism is the spur of success. So, if a member criticizes some task that we of National are undertaking he is entitled to an answer. No organization is perfect and no good business organization or social group could be successful unless it can meet criticism with logical reason.

We shall not name the person who made the following criticism but shall try to answer his letter as an open letter to the membership at large.

A member of this organization wrote to us and made the remark that, "I can't help thinking that this 'first notice' form letter is in extremely bad taste. Granted it's hard to go begging for dues, however, there must be some segment of your membership who pay-up conscientiously and might be offended by any mention of neglect."

This member has good cause to criticize. But to satisfy his remarks, this is how our form letter was developed. First it was composed by the National Secretary and then it was read to the Board of Governors in Worcester, Mass., during the last Board of Governors meeting.

This was not the only letter submitted, there were three different types of letters read for approval. The Board of Governors approved the letter that was finally sent. We operate as a unit that has representatives to speak for them through the Board of Governors, we submit that we cannot satisfy everybody and we admit that we cannot sugar coat a dues call. We have tried all types of approaches. But we have to understand one thing, without a good response of dues we must go digging into reserves. We are just getting to see daylight, and in order to keep on top we have to hit hard. Hit hard we have, and that is why we are getting the response that shows up at our overflowing post office box.

We are not apologizing for an action, but we are merely clarifying a need and how we approached this need. We all realize that our group will quickly dissipate if we fail to act wisely. We have tried to do what is best for the group as a whole, if in the course of business we offended a few, we apologize. But as in the case of every democratic organization, somebody disagrees, because only in disagreement can we find the equitable answer to success.

We thank our friend for his note, maybe we did do wrong, but maybe at the same time we have learned how to approach our task in a better manner.

This is an organization that is composed of many, and it is the many who make our organization what it is. If we don't agree tell us, we will try our best to mend our ways to satisfy as many as possible. But if we offend a few, and reach a specified goal, let the few go along with the many for the cause of success and the next time we shall try to do better.

General Stroh

(Continued from page 1)

in Brittany, Luxembourg and Germany.

Son Killed in War

While commanding the 8th Division in its successful advance on Brest, General Stroh asked for air support. One of the planes, piloted by his only son, Major Harry Stroh, was struck by anti-aircraft fire and exploded. General Stroh did not learn until several weeks later his son, who was killed, was piloting the plane.

Commands 106th Division

Later General Stroh was picked to rebuild the hardest hit division in the army, the 106th Division, which took the brunt of Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt's Ardennes breakthrough.

In Charge of Prisoners

General Stroh had charge of handling nearly one million war prisoners in the Coblenz area and at one time one of the buildings under his control contained 68 German and Hungarian generals and field Marshalls.

Decorated as Hero

For his service in World War II, General Stroh was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, Croix de Guerre, the Bronze Star, and was an officer in the French Legion of Honor. He was a member of the American Legion and a very active member of the Ninth Infantry Division Association.

Commander of Army Ground Forces

In August, 1945, General Stroh returned to the United States as commander of the Army Ground Force Replacement Depots at Fort Meade, Maryland and Camp Pickett, Virginia, and finally retired in 1949.

Civilian Awards

In 1950, Michigan State College conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws degree on General Stroh in recognition of his having attained the highest military rank of any graduate of the college.

New York Chapter

(Continued from page 1)

a splendid job as past president of the New York Chapter.

Al Bruchac then introduced the new president to the meeting, Charles Fabre. Fabre spoke about the most important factor confronting the membership, the coming convention and how to increase interest in the organization. Fabre suggested that the keynote of 1954 should be, "Each man to bring in one new member to each meeting."

Some new notes to be added: Frank Fazio is a new poppa, and so is Goldstein. The final portion of the meeting was then turned over to honoring the past president and secretary-treasurer. Mike Gatto and Harold Pepper were each given an Octofoil pin set with a diamond, in appreciation of their past performances as President and Secretary.

The next meeting will be held on February 5, 1954, at Gerdes Restaurant and the entire meeting will be devoted to ideas and functions for the coming N.Y. convention.

TAPS

Each envelope marked "Deceased" seems to constantly remind us that time and fate wait for no man.

This past month the following men have joined the great beyond:

SHELDON S. LIND
405 Beverly
Erie, Pennsylvania
WALTER DENSMAL
Box 67
Pittsford, Mich.
JUNIOR W. BROWN
RFD No. 3
Walton, West Va.

47th Anti-Tank News Letter

The following is a copy of a news letter that emanates from one of the most diligent and enthusiastic members of the 9th Infantry Division Association, Larry O'Keefe of 2468 Walnut Grove Ave., San Jose 10, California.

Larry has undertaken a herculean job and the context of the following will explain how one man is keeping a great fighting company together.

2468 Walnut Grove Avenue
San Jose 10, California

Hi! Guys!

It has taken a long, long time, but here we are again. The results of the last letter were swell and I sure did hear from a lot of you fellows. Then I was fortunate enough to get a trip back to my Home Office in Hartford, Conn. and on that trip I managed to see 18 Anti-Tankers plus a couple of others from the 47th. On the way East, I had a five hour layover in Chicago and had written Steve Bawos to meet me if he could. He sure did and we spent all the time in a cozy pub exchanging pictures and reminiscing. Steve has a good job as a mechanic and a nice family, including a couple of cute daughters. Nick Casella met me in New York and took me out to his home on Long Island where I met Mickey and daughters Lois and Marilyn. Nick has a beautiful home and lovely family. He's foreman in a printing plant.

While I was in Hartford I had to keep my nose pretty close to the grindstone but on one weekend I did go to Boston and visit Peter Cusack. What a swell Irish time we had, too, sitting up till 4 A.M., and Peter's wife, Mae, good sport that she is, stayed right along with us. They have two daughters, Maureen and Kathleen, and a boy, Johnny. Nick Casella had sent out cards to everyone in the New York vicinity whose address we had, and on my way back we had a get together in my hotel room in New York. There were 12 of us there plus a friend of one of the boys. Andrasi came down from Connecticut, Cusack from Boston, and Jack Einbinder came up from Washington, D. C. Casella, Ed Davids, Johnny Capek, Joe Torres, Charlie Bodnar, Louie Santorelli and Henry Cassata were from New York, and J. J. Smith came over from Jersey. We gabbed and drank till 3 A. M. and then Andrasi marched us in a column of two to a ham and egg place. We sure had a swell time and I only wish I could be in on a reunion like that every few years. Cusack stayed over with me that night, and Santorelli (knowing what his wife would do if he got home at 6 A. M.) stayed with Einbinder.

On Sunday I took the train out to Long Island and visited Father De Laura in his new parish at Copiague. After the last Mass, Fr. De Laura took me to his Mother's home where we had dinner, and then he and his sister took me to meet T. J. Lafferty's folks and then drove me into the Bronx to Santorelli's apartment. There I met Louie and I went to visit Jack Shea's folks. From there we went to Henry Cassata's apartment where I met Henry's wife, Virginia, and Madelyn, Marian, and Henry, Jr. The morning I left, I visited Chick Wollrich and had breakfast at his restaurant. Chick has a terrific business. I wanted to get out to his home and meet his family but there just wasn't time. The same thing was true for so many others who invited me out. It sure takes time to get around in New York and I feel fortunate that I was able to see as many as I did.

From New York, I flew to Pittsburgh where I stayed two days with Bob Buck and his family. The second day, Walt Lencewitz drove up from Carmichael and we three then drove up to Butler V. A. Hospital and saw Jimmy Corcoran. Corky's illness has certainly changed his appearance but it

hasn't changed his spirit a bit. He's as cokey and full of fun as he ever was. I saw in the Octofoil where he finally was released from the hospital and I hope he's seen the last of that place and is well on the way to full strength again. After I was home I received a letter from Corky and he told me that after Buck, Linky and I left that day, the other guys in the hospital wanted to know who we were, so he told them that he had written to Washington to squawk about conditions in the hospital and we three had been sent to investigate. That's Corcoran! From Pittsburgh I went to Cleveland where I changed planes and had an hour stopover. Russ Blood met me and we spent the hours most profitably over a few highballs. Russ looks swell and has a good job as personnel manager for a manufacturing concern.

From Cleveland I went to Nashville where I had the highlight of my whole trip. Billy Pitt and all his family met me and drove me forty miles to his farm. I stayed a day and a night with Bill and it was like pulling teeth to leave there. Bill's wife, Mercedes, is sure one swell gal and they have two nice children — Betty and Lynn Wayne. I met all of Bill's family, including the in-laws, and of course had to give a full report on how well Billy behaved overseas. It certainly was nice to discover that when Bill used to talk about those monstrous meals "back on the farm," he was really telling the truth. The night I was there we called Walt Cottingham in Valdosta, Ga. Sure would liked to have seen Walt and his family but at least it was nice to hear that voice again. Walt had just come in from refereeing in a basketball tournament and I'll bet he can still cover more court area than all the players put together. After leaving Bill, I went on to St. Louis where I stayed overnight with Lee and Harriette Kolker, and their two infantrymen, Jimmy and Danny. Lee is doing well in the insurance business and has a beautiful home and family. The next day he took me to the airport and that night I was home in San Jose after the most enjoyable trip I've ever had.

Altogether I saw 18 former Anti-Tankers and talked to Cottingham, plus seeing Fr. De Laura, Bob Buck and the parents of T. J. Lafferty and Jack Shea.

Now for some of the other news I've gathered since last Christmas. Billy Pitt had a surprise last December when Dusty Rhodes and his wife were driving through Tennessee and stopped by to see Bill. Dusty joined the reserves in 1945 and was called up a few days before Bill saw him and expecting to leave soon. No news of him since.

A letter from Jim Hayes in Tacoma says that Ruth and the kids are all well and that Jim is working hard — but still manages to find time for a little hunting and fishing.

A card from Tony Lello says he's a mail carrier and mentions his two boys, Daniel and Thomas. Short note from Ben Kowski mentions wife Irene and son Jackie. Another short note from Gilbert Cook gives no new news but corrects some old news. He says those weren't twins he had — they were triplets! That makes four boys altogether. No wonder he hasn't time to write more.

A nice letter from Maj. Dan Adams came from the Infantry School, Fort Benning. Dan was called back into service in June 1951. After several humorous interviews about the obsolescence of A. T. units, he was put to teaching the new M47 tank where he has a few old tankers and tank destroyer men and a lot of young men who regard him about as he does World War I vets. Lonea and daughter Danielle are with him at Benning. I certainly never thought, when I last saw Dan Adams in a hospital in Africa, just after he had a half

pound of metal taken out of his hip, that the army would ever want to take him back.

A nice note from Roger Gartland. He is teaching school-English and Math, but doesn't say anything about what he does during out-of-school hours. A brief note from Caroline Clark said that Edel hoped to be home from Formosa last April but haven't heard yet if he made it. Cliff Bennett was a little more newsy. He finally got married in June, 1952. He owns and operates a restaurant in Anderson. Walt Cottingham didn't waste any time after he married (as we all knew he wouldn't) and Walt, Jr. was born in August, 1952, to join Walter's step-children, Mike and Mary Lynn.

A long five-page letter from Johan Wilday brought sad news. His wife died in April 1952, after being sick about a year. Clyde and Essie Ford were in Los Angeles last year and visited with Wilday. Johan's garage business is running smoothly and he says if any of our motor pool toolbenders get to L. A. he'll put them to work. The last letter from Ford said that he saw Beaver a couple years ago and that George was working 12 hours a day, 7 days a week, trying to make enough to retire in ten years. That doesn't sound like Beaver to me. Of course, if Beaver himself would write, maybe we'd get the straight dope. How about it, George? Ford also saw Rosy Newman who is working for the State of Texas as an engineer on the Possum Kingdom Lake Dam and raising cattle on the side. That sounds like hardworking Rosy. Clyde also mentions that Rosey has a son but didn't give any other particulars.

An item out of the June, 1953 Octofoil reports a letter from Mrs. J. V. Robinson of 1345 E. 8th St., Pueblo, Colo. She wrote that her son Philip was killed Jan. 22, 1953. Phil worked for the Colorado Builders cutting steel for bridge building. A hoist lift that he was working under snapped its cable and a piece of steel fell and killed him. Mrs. Robinson would like to hear from some former Anti-Tankers so how about it — especially the 1st Platoon.

Getting back to some of that gang in New York, Henry Cassata was still having a rough time of it when I was there. Of course he didn't look any rougher than he used to look in Sicily but removing half a lung weakened him a lot and work has been none too steady. I mentioned last Christmas that it looked like someone has snared Johnny Capek but when I saw him I discovered it wasn't true. The greatest lover in A. T. Co. is still single.

As to news of my family — probably the best we have had is that Mike is completely recovered from his rheumatic fever and doesn't even have a light heart murmur. Pat recently underwent a hysterectomy (your wife will tell you what it means) and is recovering very slowly but surely. Bill and Coleen are well and active. I'm still with the same insurance company (after paying my expenses to Hartford and back they can't afford not to keep me — I hope). I opened a branch office for the company here in San Joe a couple of months ago and that has meant more work but also more business for the company. Having the office isn't keeping me in town any more than it used to, as I still have my travelling to do. All in all, it has been enough to keep me well occupied this year, as evidenced by the fact that I am just now getting around to writing.

I have probably missed some news but I hope not too much. I did manage to collect a lot of new addresses while in New York and you'll find them included in the new roster attached. Two letters that went out last year were returned with no forwarding address — Howard Ellis and Orville Teets but we've since relocated both of them.

I really got a good response from the last letter but not too many gave me news of themselves and their families. This year I hope

Was This War!

Your editor has had on numerous occasions many opportunities to flip through about 300 pictures that are on file in this headquarters. From time to time when a picture that had particular merit was noticed it was placed in a little memory niche. Now we have gathered a few of the pleasantries that happen so infrequently during times of stress and would like to show you, "WAS THIS WAR!"



Picture 1 shows us Pvt Raymond Moser and Pfc Sparrel Nichols, posing for an army photographer in a street of Derichswiler, Germany. Please take notice that the surrounding buildings were created for effect by the 9th Div Artillery.



Picture 2. These cuties shown below shall go nameless for the moment. Yes, it is true that these mighty men wore the uniform of the U.S. and just happened to pose for the army photographer during a show that they put on for the troops in Winchester Barracks, Winchester, England. This part of the 60th Infantry is a tribute to the versatility of men to entertain themselves under awkward conditions, namely, a lack of femininity. Or is it!

MAIL BAG

This past week we received a card with a new address and we thought that our readers would like to know that it is now, MAJ. GEN. J. G. VanHOUTEN, G-1 Division Hq., USAREUR, APO No. 403, C/O P.M., N.Y. Capt. Al L. Baker, 9361st. T.S.U., Red River Arsenal, Texarkana, Texas sends the following note, "I am now stationed here in Texas. A great place for Texans. I have managed to contact one of the 9th men here in this area. His name is Gainer D. Brackman, of Rodessa, Louisiana, and he is a former Service Company, 39th Infantry man. We have had two very enjoyable gab-sessions recently and I am looking forward to more of the same in the near future. I have strong hopes of making the convention this com-

to get swamped with newsy letters.

Season's Greetings to All,

Sincerely,

LARRY O'KEEFE

P.S. Don't forget the 9th Inf. Division Association — and to send your \$3.50 dues to the Association Secretary, Stanley Cohen, Box 423, Jersey City 3, N. J.

ing year. Sorry that I couldn't make it this past year but I was held up on my departure from Japan and didn't arrive home until August. I had a very enjoyable 30 days leave and then reported for duty in Texas last September.

Special Troops

From Chunchon, Korea... John Alley formerly Div. Hqs., A.G. Section sends the following note: Must always start the New Year right by keeping my membership dues in the Association paid up. Although I am now in Korea, I want the Octofoil to continue coming to my home in Oakland, California because my wife airmails it to me, thereby getting the jump on second class mail... Received Xmas cards from Whitney Barbagallo, Ott and Earl Ailor... my regards to any mutual acquaintances... George Whitehurst... Also from A. G. Section, Special Troops tells us that he is going to be transferred to Chicago in March and is taking his wife Julia and daughter Janet age 2½ years with him. George is in partnership with a manufacturer's agent from Detroit representing 3 Rubber companies and likes his work fine. Whitehurst is looking forward to contacting Tom

Owens, a former Finance boy when he gets into Chicago, George sends his best to all the lads from A.G.

Special Announcement Section

WASHINGTON, D.C. — HARRISON J. DAYSH announces the opening of his office for the practice of Law in the Mehring Building, located at 8422 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, Maryland, telephone number is Juniper 8-4763... Jerome Shapiro of 10 Overlook Terrace, New York 33, N.Y., informs us that "He has started a mail-order book business and... He can get any of the members of the Association a 10% discount on any book published... Just drop him a line."

Sgt. Ralph J. Smith of Red Bud, Illinois is now stationed near Mt. Fuji in Japan.

47th Infantry

Philip J. Freund, Jr. of 521 S. Spring St., Woodbury Heights, New Jersey, informs the Octofoil that his crew is really coming on... Judy is now 7, Philip is now 6, Mary Jo is 5, Charene is 2, and Jimmy is 7 months... Charles Troccoli formerly of Company E, 47th Infantry is a next door neighbor and also has a fine brood. Phil has heard from quite a few former buddies of the 47th at Christmas, but would like to hear from more of the lads from Company C.

Bill (Sam) Buemi (Company F) tells us that for a long time now he has been anxious to contact the Octofoil but business just won't slow down long enough; Bill has the ABC Lath & Plastering Company of 11913 Cromwell Ave., Cleveland 20, Ohio. But Bill wants to report a new addition, a son by the name of Bobby, born on March 12, 1953. His other son Billy is now 8 years old; Bill tells us that he now has two good men on his side. He also told us that one of his old buddies sent him a Christmas card but neglected to sign his name, the card came from some place in New Jersey. Bill tells us that this summer he wants Tony Repetti to get ready to welcome him as he has good intentions to make the N.Y.C. convention.

Joseph L. Rappozina of 24001 Sherman, Oak Park 37, Michigan tells us, "It might be of interest to some of the fellows to learn that our fourth youngster which incidentally now make three girls and one boy, who was born on Christmas Day. This by the way was a very nice Christmas present for the Rappozinas. Joe sends his best regards to the organization and sincere congratulations to those of the men who are "up front" and carrying on the work essential to the life of the outfit."

39th Infantry

A special announcement to the men of Regiment Headquarters of the 39th Infantry: To such guys as Ralph Goddard, Joe Handley, Ernie Burtrum, Lyle H. Bredin-camp, Duke Hallister, Chief Burg-doffer, Jake Majors, Dominick Carey, Robert Sloan, Philip Carmen, Red Munson, PHIL Simons, Damon Loveless, John Spinelli, Frank Satsinsky, George Rose and several others, I want to take this opportunity to let you all know that I still remember all of you and the many happenings that occurred while we were together. Though time flies along its merry way I think we all helped to make a chapter of history that will be remembered for a long, long time. I hope you all are happy and in good health. Signed, Paul Potts of 2302 - 29th Street, Bedford, Indiana... Mike Batelli sends us the following newsy letter:

Dear Stan,

Enclosed herewith my dues for '54 — it isn't that I've hesitated sending it along, but it seems that time goes right by these days.

Since I last met you on Broadway and Church St., Paterson, I've been elected commander of the War Veterans League of the Post Office, Paterson (better known as the Post Office Vets)... trustee for the Benevolent Fund of the local branch No. 120 of the National

Association of Letter Carriers, for whom I also double as public relations officer.

And this past week, was elected public relations officer of the Veterans Council of Paterson (N.J.).

On top of all this, Stan, I'm proudest of the fact that I am a member of the Ninth Infantry Division Association... and want to say that the New York Chapter is really on the ball — and would like to congratulate them for their novel Christmas greetings... I shall keep the card as long as I am permitted to "stay-on-stage" by our Overseer up-stairs.

Have been meaning to write you on members of the 39th Infantry — and will one of these days... but in the meantime, what has happened to the "Falcons"? Why can't we have more news of the 39th? I guess we need someone like those members of ole Co. "B" — to carry the ball...

Stan, would you please send me some information on the MEDAL OF LIBERATED FRANCE? Perhaps I could bring it to the attention of members of the Post Office Vets who might be eligible.

While sloshing through the snow yesterday I met Frank Ashworth of Company F — 39th Inf., bending his back over a shovel full of snow looks good and appears to be in good spirits — Sal Morano, Hq Co., is now a book-binder with St. Anthony's Guild and lives at 68 Montclair Ave., Paterson 3, N.J.

Dudley L. Peery has an addition to his family, making it 2 daughters and is now living in Boynton, Virginia... had a nice card from former S/Sgt Leon Weber of Hq Co., 2nd Bn... and was more than pleased to hear from another S/Sgt of that great company, Hq Co., 2nd Bn., after an absence of one year as well as a returned letter with the notation by the New York Post Office "Cannot be Found"... Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gibson — Arthur and Lillian are living in Westport, Conn.

While strolling down Broadway, NYC, one day... I was stunned by the huge and still talkative figure of our own "Dick Sullivan" of Service Company... Dick will always be remembered by me for his parody on "McNamara's Band" dedicated to the old personnel section of Fort Bragg, N.C.'s early days headed by Captain Vestal — forgot to ask Dick if he had ever become a lawyer, too?

While making my daily rounds here with my mail-bag I've had a few pleasant surprises too — running first into that nice guy and athlete out of Company "L"... Herbie Taff... now a successful liquor salesman working out of Paterson.

Then one day looking up at the huge handsome figure of a body speaking with a bit of an Irish brogue which sounded familiar to me... I see Jim Lynch... he or Company "K" and Service Company... Jim is now with Ballantine Brewing Co., and resides in E. Orange.

And as the secretary also knows, I've met secretary S.C. dashing about our city on one of his many chores... An asset to any organization and one secretary to be proud of.

My last bit of news today — is that my old traveling-mate to our many trips to Raleigh, N.C., Americus "Mexie" Lamberti, looking as handsome as ever... is the directing officer of the local Veterans Administration Office located in the Post Office Building... Mexie is as proud as a peacock in having been a member of the Ninth Infantry Division and I heard him brag and boast of his days with the Ninth to his co-workers one a.m.

I hope I haven't taken up too much time, and I certainly wish you and your missus a most successful and prosperous New Year and may your fine work be rewarded by what-ever you may desire for the present and the future.

With sincere best wishes,

"MIKE" BATELLI

60th Infantry

Edwin E. Brewer (L Co.) of 5115 Euclid Ave., Kansas City 30, Mo., tells us that he has not attended a reunion since Chicago

in 1950, but he hopes He will be able to make it this year.

Jim Hart (K) Sends along the following: "Just a few lines to let you know that although I find myself a little late with my dues here they are. Can't afford to find myself without the Octofoil. Seems that when you arrive home in 1946 a single man and in 1954 find yourself with four kids you don't have too much of a chance to take in the conventions or Father Connors wonderful Memorial Masses. (Jim sent just a little extra with his dues with the following tag line). It isn't much but will buy a few stamps to put on letters urging others to pay up and keep the Association strong. Jim send some wonderful words of praise, but what stands out the most is his feeling to help keep the old outfit together.

From Here and There

Frank M. Ridzi, 72 Windsor Place, Brooklyn, N. Y. (C Btry 60th F. A.) informs us that he was just released from the V. A. Hospital at Fort Hamilton, there he met a former 9th Division man of K Company, 60th Infantry man by the name of John J. Gleason of 3180 - 43rd Street, Astoria, L. I., N. Y. and that John is anxious to hear from any of his old buddies of K Company 60th Infantry. John was wounded in Sedjenane and has not heard from any of the old gang since.

Bill Snodgrass of 536 So. Grand Stree, Orange, Calif. sends his best to all of his old buddies. William J. Poust of 320 East 81st Street, N. Y. C. 28, N. Y. wants to extend to all his friends a very healthy and prosperous New Year.

Frank E. Heikkila of 1914 Hillcrest Drive, Lima, Ohio tells us that he was sorry to have missed the Washington Convention. It seems that the Convention came at the wrong time of the year, but Frank hopes to catch the New York Convention if it is possible.

James C. Landise Jr., (Btry A 60 F. A. Bn) of 2042 West 76th Street, Chicago 20, Illinois tells us that our letter dated December 15, 1953 reached him on January 15, 1954. We can't do anything about the mail, especially when we have to use the most inexpensive rate, so please excuse and forgive. The main thing is you received the letter.

60th Field Report

As we promised in the October issue, here are the names of the men whose picture you saw published. Top row, standing, left to right: William Spruill (A), Frank Lovell (Hq), Edward J. Colonello (A), James I. Hardy (Hq), (Background) Mullholland, 1th Eng., Joe R. Burton (Hq), Bud Remer (Hq); Kneeling — Yours Truly (Hq), Savino DeRose (Sv), Austin A. Briggs (Hq), Michael Bish (Hq), Mike Belmonte (A), Alfred P. Brusch (Sv), and sitting in front is Louis Pandolphi (C). There are several men missing and we imagine that they were helping the sorority girls with their home work.

We attended the Memorial Mass celebrated by Father Connors in Worcester Mass. on Sunday November 8th and to say that it was a success is to put it mildly. However, we wish to go on record in wishing that a great many of the 60th men that live within an hour or two of Worcester had put in a appearance. We would like to feel that the lack of notice from us was responsible and the only excuse we can offer for that is that since we have been reassigned to new duties we have been unable to devote the same amount of time to our correspondence. Things are now getting back to normal routine and we hope to do better in the future.

Many of you must be wondering about that list of names and addresses we have promised you. Well, since we put out the hurry-up call we have received many new names and it will take time to send letters to each one, wait till a reply is received and the list corrected as to new address etc. Please be patient and if you have any name you have not sent along please do so now. We would like each of the

names we send you to be verified as to address. If you are looking for any particular buddy in the meantime a card to us will bring the address if we have it.

Mailbag

From Frank M. Ridzi (C) enclosing about a dozen names and addresses and informing us that he has been confined to the veterans hospital in Brooklyn. He was home for a few days but will have to go back. Hopes to attend the N. Y. Chapter meetings in the near future. Good luck Frank.

From Paul Jones (B), now Cpl. with the army of occupation in Darmstadt, Germany. Address A. P. O. 17 c/o Postmaster N. Y., N. Y. who writes that at the present time things are a bit rough with him. His wife is in the hospital and wishes he could hear from some of the old gang. Looks forward to getting to a reunion upon his return to the states.

New Members

James J. Mulhern — 838 Meikel Street, Indianapolis, Ind. (Hq).

Everett E. Botsford — 903 Main Street, Olean, New York (Hq).

Anthony F. Moleca — 15 Boylston Street, Jamaica Plains, Mass. (Med).

How about dropping a post card to these men telling them how glad you are to see them back in the fold. I know they would be glad to hear from you. And while you are at it. Send me a note with a Christmas present in the form of your 1954 Dues. We close with sincere greetings for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year for you and yours. May God be good to you Because He loves the 9th Division.

Charles J. Fabre 288 Maple Street Brooklyn 25, N. Y.

We recently received word from Lomen A. Taylors mother reporting that he has been in Germany since 1952. Those wishing to contact him can do so at the following address, Captain Lomen A. Taylor, 0-1996458, Apo 69, N.Y.C., N. Y.

John J. Bachman of R.R. #2, Oregon sends the following wish, "I am sincerely wishing a prosperous 1954 to the men of the 9th Infantry Division Association." Jimmy Corcoran of 33 St. John St., Sch. Haven, Pennsylvania tells us that he has returned from the hospitals and sends us a few reminders that are apropos at this time for example Jimmy says, "It would be a good time now to remind the members of the Division association to pay up there dues so that the 9th Division Association can be a living symbol and a tribute to our dead comrades. They who have given there lives, for belief in showing the rest of the world that the American way is the finest way. Let's never forget to forget those who gave there lives so that we as Americans may continue to live in peace and with our faith in God and may we be able to do just that, keep our faith in ourselves and in God. Fellows lets not forget those men, whom I am sure would not have forgotten you. Our slogan should be, "Let's make 1954 a banner year, for you all made a banner division." Jimmy tells us that he recently joined Tom V. Maguire also of the Anti-Tan Co., 47th Inf. his wife and daughter Janice at a dinner party in Philadelphia. Ed Davids is reminded to get in touch with Jim and for Ed's sake Tom's address is Tom Maguire 7429 E. Walnut Lane, Germantown 38, Philadelphia, Jim sends his best to Bob Buck, John Einbinder Hayes and also asks Ben Hawskie of Dumkirk, N. Y. who has a fine family now, a cute son called Jackie and his lovely wife Irene, to write when he gets a chance. Thanks for the kind words Jimmy. Leonard J. Mahan of 84 South 6th Street Linderhurst, L.I. N. Y. and many other men as Leonard sent the same letter regarding the "Medal of Liberated France." To satisfy all requests we are going to try and enlarge on all the variances regarding this award.

From Winchester, England

We received word recently from R. Dillon, Mayor, of Winchester, England, that the flag and the plaque have been finally set up side by side in the Cathedral. Mayor Dillon remarks that, "I hope that members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association will feel satisfied, and that some of them will be able to visit the Cathedral to see their gifts in position. We must apologize for not showing the picture as we did not have too much room left in this edition. We will try to have the picture in the next issue.

Editorial Special

Since Jan. 5, 1954, yours truly has been doing a lot of night hiking from his bedroom to the room across the hall. It has gotten so that each time your editor has to make his daughter belch, he does it for her. . . You are very right, we have finally achieved our goal. . . So, if we have been a little tardy in the past, as soon as our eyeballs are reaccustomed to some degree of normalcy we shall try to do right by those who we have been a little tardy with. Oh yes, her name is Judy. . . and pardon our cliché, but she certainly is a cutie.



New York Chapter
Sec. H. Pepper
Grand Central P.O. Box
N.Y., N.Y.

Meeting place:
Gerdes Restaurant
112 East 18th St., N.Y. 3, N.Y.
Tel.: GR 7-9817

Meeting Time:
1st Frid. of each Month

Phila. Chapter
Sec. Jack O'Shea
1049 So. 52nd St.
Phila, Pa.
SA: 7-5299

Meeting: 1st Frid. every Month
P.R.R. Amer. Leg. Post 204
3202-04 Chestnut St.
Phila, Pa.

Buffalo Chapter
Sec. Henry J. R. Golabiecki
265 Cambridge Ave.
Buffalo, N.Y.

Northern Ohio Chapter
Sec: William C. Mauser
6632 Bliss Ave.
Cleveland 3, Ohio
Endicott 1-1007

Detroit Chapter
Sec: Robert J. De Sandy
1685 Faircourt
Gross Pointe Woods 30, Mich.

Twin Cities Chapter
Sec: Richard W. Sims
3932 Brunswick
St. Louis Park, Minn.
Phone Wh 3311
Meeting — New Years Eve

New England Chapter
Fred B. D'Amore
75 Webster Street
East Boston 28, Mass.

Columbus Chapter
Sec: Glenn O. Moore
22 East Gay St.
Columbus, Ohio

Illinois Chapter
Secretary, Theodore Preston
3356 N. Springfield Avenue
Chicago 18, Illinois
Phone: Juniper 8-3576
Meeting place: 3346 N. Springfield Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Second Friday of the month.

Wash. D.C. Chapter
Sec: Anthony B. Micke
7 Underwood Place, N.W.
Washington 12, D.C.

Have You Paid Your Dues for '54?

French Medal of Liberated France

The best possible way to satisfy all requests for information regarding this award is to quote from the official records. We have been deluged with various questions and the only source that we can quote from with any degree of authenticity is the following letter written by Major General Wm. E. Bergin, U.S.A., The Adjutant General. "Dear Mr. Cohen: This is in reply to your letter requesting information concerning the award of the Medal of Liberated France. The above award is a service medal and as such may not be accepted by military personnel on active duty. There is no objection to the acceptance of the award by former military personnel; however, the award cannot be worn on the uniform. Enclosed for your information is an application form listing the data required in making application for the medal.

(Your editor probably in mailing out the forms may have sent out some forms that were not too legible. Frankly, after running off 18,000 forms one gets a little careless and might have let a few get off that were not too legible. For those men who had trouble reading the form here is how you may apply.)

Instructions for French Medal

- Use an 8½" x 11" piece of white paper.
- Leave plenty of room and send us your:
Name (printed.)
Rank
Service Number:
Organization with which applicant served:
Mailing address.

This office will then put this information with the balance of the forms which we are now being assembled for mass mailing.

Instructions:

The Medal of Liberated France is awarded to military members of the Allied Forces who participated, between 3 September 1939 to 20 August 1945, in war operations on land, sea, or in the air, on territory of Metropolitan France and of the

French Union or French mandates. The medal is also awarded to allied military personnel assigned to liaison with French Land, Sea or Air Forces, between 18 June 1940 to 20 August 1945.

If you were a member of the United States army and are eligible according to the above requirements, return this application to the Adjutant General, Department of the Army, Washington 25, D.C., or 9th Div. Association, Box 428, Jersey City, N. J.

Please Note:

To facilitate the awarding of this service ribbon, this office has asked the members of the Association to send in a PHOTOSTAT of the BACK of their service record discharge which includes the Battles and awards part.

We have in a great many instances received the original discharges from our members. This is making twice as much work for yourselves and the chances of perhaps losing your originals cannot be guaranteed by this office. If it is impossible to have your records photostatted then please, just fill in the information that we have listed above for the medal.

The primary purpose of having your records photostated is to have our records processed in one great batch. Without your discharge the A. G. section will probably have to mull through their records and this takes a long time as many of you will remember and are even now experiencing.

This office has received some very fantastic requests regarding medals and various awards. All we can say is please be patient with us in answering your letters. What we shall do is try to handle all medal correspondence with one large folio. This office had no idea of how many men did not receive their rightly share of awards and so to try to facilitate these requests we are going to handle them all at once.

Some men have requested information about other organizations trying to get the medal. This can be done by securing the forms from the Adjutant General, Department of the Army, Washington 25, D.C.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 9th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Stan Cohen, National Sec.-Treas.
Post Office Box 428
Jersey City 3, New Nersey

Enclosed please find 1954 dues for:

Name Serial No.

Street Address

City Zone State

I was a (Battery member of (Company Regiment 9th Div.

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member\$3.50 per year ()
Sustaining Member ()

THREE YEAR MEMBER\$10.00 ()
Life Membership\$50.00 ()
Octofoil Auto License Disc\$ 1.00 ()
Eight Stars to Victory\$ 3.50 ()

(Pictorial History of 9th Div. in Action)

Ladies Auxiliary Member\$1.50 ()
Decals\$.25 apiece — 5 for \$1.00
Combat Route Map\$.50
60th Infantry History\$1.00

Please credit the following chapter:

Philadelphia () Illinois () EUCOM ()
Buffalo () Columbus () Greater N. Y. ()
Columbus () Pittsburgh () Wash., D.C. ()
New England () Northern Ohio () Detroit ()
Twin Cities ()

Explanation of Dues:

Non-Chapter member all payment of dues to Nat'l.
Chapter Member: \$1.00 for chapter, \$2.50 to Nat'l.
Ladies Auxiliary \$50 to chapter, \$1.00 to Nat'l.
Three Year: \$3.00 to chapter, \$7.00 to Nat'l.
Life Member: \$12.50 to chapter, \$37.50 to Nat'l.
Sustaining Member: Chapter to receive 1/3 of amount over \$3.50, balance to National.